

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information portal, comprising:
a service access interface connectable to at least one service;
a portal directory connected to said service access interface;
a user access interface connected to said portal directory;
5 at least one user group;
at least one user profile; and
said at least one user group and said at least one user profile both being
related to said at least one service through a configuration of said service
access interface and being related to said user access interface through a
10 configuration of said portal directory.
2. An information portal according to claim 1, wherein said at least one
user profile is assignable to a user.
3. An information portal according to claim 2, wherein said at least one
user profile is configurable by at least one of said user and an administrator.
4. An information portal according to claim 3, wherein said at least one
user profile configuration can specify a portion of said at least one service
available to said at least one user.
5. An information portal according to claim 1, further comprising a
user authentication engine effective to provide security access to said portal
directory and said at least one service.

6. An information portal according to claim 5, wherein said authentication engine is operable to maintain an authentication mapping, whereby said at least one user is granted security access to said at least one service by securely accessing said portal directory through said authentication engine.

7. An information portal according to claim 1, further comprising:
an information summary related to said at least one service;
said information summary being updateable when an information
content of said at least one service is updated;
5 an indication of an activity in said information portal; and
 said information content being updateable based on said indication.

8. An information portal according to claim 1, wherein said service access interface is a standardized interface effective to connect to a plurality of services in a standardized format.

9. An information portal according to claim 5, further comprising:
a migration tool operable to transfer authentication information from an
information system to said portal directory; and
 said transferred authentication information being usable by said user
5 authentication engine effective to provides said security access.

10. A method of providing organization information, comprising:
connecting at least one information source with a user access
configuration;

configuring said user access configuration to provide access to said at
5 least one information source by at least one user; and

providing said at least one user with a customization tool effective to
customize presentation of information accessible in said at least one
information source by said at least user.

11 A method of providing organization information according to claim
10, wherein said connecting is performed with a standardized interface with
said information source.

12. A method of providing organization information according to
claim 11, wherein:

said user access configuration includes at least one user group
associated with said information source;

5 said user access configuration further includes at least one user profile
associated with said at least one user;

said at least one user is a member of said at least one user group; and

said at least one user can operate said customization tool to manipulate
settings in said at least one user profile to effect said customized presentation.

13. A method of providing organization information according to
claim 10, further comprising:

operating a user authentication engine to access said at least one
information source; and

5 providing said at least one user with access to an information summary
related to an information content of said information source.

14. A method of providing organization information according to claim 13, wherein said at least one user can directly access said information source through operation of said authentication engine.

15. A method of providing organization information according to claim 13, further comprising:

updating said information summary when related information in said information content is updated; and

5 permitting said at least one user to set an alert when said information summary is updated.

16. A method of providing organization information according to claim 13, further comprising:

identifying an activity by said at least one user related to said information content; and

updating said information content based on said activity.

17. A method of providing organization information according to claim 13, further comprising:

updating said information summary when related information in said information content is updated;

5 identifying an activity by said at least one user related to said information content; and

updating said information content based on said activity.

18. A processor operable to execute a program code from a storage memory, said program code comprising:

a first code segment executable to connect at least one information source with a user access configuration;

5 a second code segment executable to configure said user access configuration to provide access to said at least one information source by at least one user; and

a third code segment executable to provide said at least one user with a customization tool effective to customize presentation of information
10 accessible in said at least one information source by said at least user.

19. A computer readable media containing a program code executable to provide organization information to a user, said program code comprising:

a first code segment executable to connect at least one information source with a user access configuration;

5 a second code segment executable to configure said user access configuration to provide access to said at least one information source by at least one user; and

a third code segment executable to provide said at least one user with a customization tool effective to customize presentation of information
10 accessible in said at least one information source by said at least user.

20. A computer network for deploying an information portal, comprising:

a service access interface connectable to at least one service;

a portal directory connected to said service access interface;

5 a user access interface connected to said portal directory;

at least one user group;

at least one user profile; and

10 said at least one user group and said at least one user profile both being
related to said at least one service through a configuration of said service access
interface and being related to said user access interface through a configuration of
said portal directory.